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NEWS RELEASE

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April 17, 1997

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA PRESENTS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

MISSOULA --

Students and staff at The University of Montana—Missoula are offering high school students a chance to take charge of their futures by attending UM's first Leadership Institute.

The Leadership Institute is July 13-18 and is open to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Jason Thielman of Whitefish, a facilitator and president of Associated Students of The University of Montana, recommends the camp to future leaders.

"It's a tremendous growth experience," said Thielman. "It's like walking into a room full of freshmen in high school and walking out with seniors in high school."

Thielman is a UM junior studying history and finance. He was recently appointed to serve as student regent on Montana's Board of Regents of Higher Education.

Students will spend the first four days of the camp at UM's Lubrecht Experimental Forest facility. In this section of the institute, students develop team building skills and self-confidence, write a personal mission statement and work on communications skills and appreciation for diversity.

"It's very empowering," said Mary-Kate Nienhuis of Philipsburg, a facilitator and UM junior studying secondary education. "It taught me about myself and where I wanted to go with my life."

The last two days are spent on the UM campus working on problem-solving and bringing

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a close to the week's activities.

Jeanne Sinz, director of UM's Office of Career Services and coordinator of the institute, said the camp offers students the skills that employers are looking for: Communications, conflict resolution and the ability to be a team player.

Andrea Schmitt of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, a UM freshman studying history, is a facilitator for the institute. Schmitt is a graduate of Lake City High School who, as a junior high student, was involved in a similar camp and wants to be able to pass the same experience along to other students.

The Leadership Institute is limited to approximately 50 students, which helps ensure a staff to student ratio averaging five to one.

"This is an incredible opportunity for high school students," said Susie Taylor of Havre, a facilitator and UM sophomore studying history.

Cost of the camp is \$375 and includes lodging and meals, program fees and activity costs. A \$75 deposit is required and is refundable until May 15; the remaining \$300 is required by June 1. Scholarships are available.

The Leadership Institute is sponsored by The University of Montana—Missoula Office of Career Services in partnership with the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire, UM's Alumni Association and Admissions and New Student Services at UM.

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